



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE JONATHAN STEINBERG**  
136<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4020  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: 860-240-8585  
TOLL FREE: 800-842-8267  
HOME: 203-226-6749

E-MAIL: Jonathan.Steinberg@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
AGING COMMITTEE

**SB 443: An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds, Parks,  
Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens**

I strongly endorse SB443 which will take the logical and necessary next step to ban the use of pesticides on *all* school grounds, and impose reasonable restrictions for parks and athletic fields.

I don't need to remind this committee that the issue of pesticide application in close proximity to children has been debated for many years. To our collective credit, we *did* finally pass legislation limiting pesticide use on school grounds for children up to eighth grade. A number of people – and the chemicals industry – predicted dire consequences, particularly a significant increase in maintenance expense.

So, what about this year? The difference this year is that we now have sufficient experience across the state in implementing this policy to debunk the fears and we can now point to any number of local successes in using a sensible pest management strategy. Therefore, it makes perfect sense to extend this policy to high school athletic fields and other public grounds.

I'd even go a step further, seeking to add a definition of "integrated pest management" or IPM. The concept originated in agricultural contexts but has been appropriated and modified for use in more urban circumstances. I'm not sure I can agree with how DEEP defines it currently. I believe that the key to an accurate definition of IPM involves an emphasis on using organic alternatives to pesticides, which exist to address virtually any pest infestation.

Yes, some of these organic treatments are not as easy to find in stores as ubiquitous pesticides. Yes, some may be more expensive than bulk-produced pesticides. But I submit that if and when we achieve the wholesale shift to such organic products both their availability and cost will improve substantially.

I realize that the IPM debate might take you down the path of even more controversy and I acknowledge that you've already taken on a lot with this bill.

Thank you for taking on this serious threat to the health and safety of our children and others and I urge you to move the bill forward.